

MAY 1993

OPEN ARMS

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

Twenty-two Michiana residents took the Pride Action train to Washington, D.C., and many others drove or flew there, for the April 25th March for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Equal Rights. The following are impressions from some of the train-trippers:

An incredibly healing experience. By far the largest family reunion ever attended. I only wish the loving self respect I witnessed on the Mall was a mirror of what this country is about but I think our National mirror needs some cleaning.

The volume of people and the sisterhood/brotherhood.

An empowering experience that really validated me as a lesbian woman.

It was overwhelming to see so many people with the same cause come together in one place to stand united. I had chills most of the day. That's what it's all about--unity--with so much diversity within our family.

I was glad to see so many lesbians there--at least 50% of the marchers.

The numbers (of people). Solidarity. Lack of any violence. Peaceful. Fun. Painful (sunburn).

I was upset that the chants on the Dyke March to the White House on Saturday fed into negative stereotypes of lesbians. Also the amount of litter left everywhere was astonishing.

It was so organized and the big TV screens were a tremendous help. There was a real feeling of unity among lesbians and gays.

It was overwhelming to feel so comfortable holding hands walking down the street and even on the subway. I was surprised to see only 1 or 2 opposition demonstrators along the parade route.

It was wonderful to get some understanding of the vastness of our family. You had to be there to get a sense of it.

How can we go back? I was walking with my lover in the sunshine with our arms around each other--kissing in the sunshine. You can't come here and see the March and go back the same. I want to do more work on Pride Action Day and the Lesbian & Gay Coalition to bring that feeling home with us.

This was something every lesbian, gay and bisexual person should experience. Everyone should come to Pride Day in South Bend to feel on a small scale the same wonderfully empowering experience of being in the majority. Look out world because I'm coming out!



SOFTBALL PRACTICE OR OH! MY ACHING BODY

I didn't really plan on going for practice, mine or anyone else's, just thought I'd drop by, warm a bench, catch some rays, and watch the players torturing their bodies. No--that definitely was not for me. But the urge was still there--not to play, but to participate in a small way.

Taking a position behind the batter (way behind, I might add) I shagged balls. Now the old bones are just that--OLD--the back isn't flexible, and I should've used a basket to catch what went through my legs.

Since there wasn't a basket available, my next approach was to close my legs. That worked beautifully, I have technicolor shins to prove it. Someone told me I should have used my glove. How could I have forgotten that? I thought my left hand was over-sized. But you know what? It was fun--not bruising my shins--the participation!

If someone yells "Throw it home, throw it home", aim at home base (or the catcher), not at your heart throb. Throw passes at her when you get home.

If you like to watch slow-pitch softball, take a break, come out and cheer for team. I won't be the catcher--I'll be in the stands yellin'. The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. SEE YA" AT THE GAMES? BE THERE!

-Jean-



THANKS TO THE MICHIANA LESBIAN COMMUNITY

Thanks are due to the Michiana lesbian community for being such strong defenders of the Women's Pavilion and such strong supporters of the annual WILPF International Women's Day Festival.

♪ SAFE and LEGAL ♪



COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

Due to softball, Video Night has been cancelled until September.



3RD FRIDAY OUT

Madison Oyster Bar
421 East Madison St., South Bend
May 21, 7 p.m.

Call Lu or Sheree for reservations: (616)-684-6365

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tues. 7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120



GAME NIGHT

Saturday, May 15th, 4 p.m.

Drinking OK, smoking outdoors. Bring a dish to pass and your own bottle and we'll have a pitch-in. Eat at 5 p.m..

Call for directions to C&B's: (219)-287-4548

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the April *Open Arms* is May 16th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after May 16th may not be published in the May newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, May 16th, 1993 at 2121 Hollywood Place, South Bend, 6:00 p.m. Call Jeanne, 287-5071 for directions.

SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE

As with any switch over of staff, there are often minor problems and oversights. We think we have the mailing labels up to date with the correct due date, but if you think we have erred, please contact us.

To facilitate the mailing of OPEN ARMS, we have developed some guidelines:

- 1) The month before your subscription expires, we will highlight your date and enclose a renewal form. Please fill this out and mail it in as soon as you get it. This will give us time to make sure your name and address are correct. Your comments will help us make future issues better.
- 2) The month your subscription expires, we will highlight the date and write "Last Chance" on it. Unless we receive your check by the 20th of the month when we prepare the labels, you will not get the next months copy.

For the first few months, we have tried to be lenient, but it is a timely process and we must find a way to simplify it. We have removed several names from the mailing list that have received two or more notices, but in case you are having financial difficulties at this time, please give us a call and we will try to carry you for a few more months.

-Kaye and Marcia

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.



EVENTS COORDINATORS

3rd Friday Out: Lu & Sheree (616) 684-6365

Wimin's Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616) 684-4011

Game Night: Sheree (616) 684-6365

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marsha (219) 271-0388

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary	(219) 234-5986
Sheree	(616) 684-6365
Kaye & Marcia	(219) 271-0338
Advertising-Maggie:	(219) 287-3124
Subscriptions:	Kaye or Marcia



PRIDE ACTION DAY

Where: First Unitarian Church, corner of
U.S. 31 North and
Northshore, South Bend



When: June 13, 1993 - 10 a.m. to around
5 p.m.

The Opening Ceremony at 10 a.m., a
universal dance of peace led by Jim Meyer,
will be an expression of self through sound
and music. Audience participation welcomed.

Bring a bag lunch to eat on the lawn
after the Opening.

Katherine Dick will give the keynote
address, "Courage" after lunch and there will
be speakers, workshops, vendors and
entertainers the remainder of the day.

Speakers will talk about women's health
issues, legal documents to protect the rights
of lesbians/gays, and what it is like to live
with AIDS. The NOW Coalition will offer
people the chance to vote on what community
projects should be done now.

Vendors will feature books, crystals, and
the work of local artists including jewelry.
Entertainment will include improvisation and
acoustic, jazz and folk musicians.

The event will be interpreted for the
hearing impaired. All activities will be
generated with the idea that children will be
in attendance. The media will not be invited
and will not be permitted to attend the
celebration. Pride Action committee people
will be the only ones to make any statements
to the media.

DEBRIEFING SESSION

For everyone who went on the March on
Washington. Time and date to be arranged.
For info call Marcia at 287-6881.

ROOM NEEDED

Valparaiso womyn, a part-time employee at
Memorial Hospital in South Bend, seeks bed-
room for overnight stay one night a week
presently, but for increased periods when she
is working for staff on vacation.

Does \$20 per night sound O.K.? Or can we
negotiate? Contact Kathy who is home Wed.,

Fri. and most evenings and weekends. Leave a message at
other times: (219)-464-4750.



Political Action

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is asking
lesbians and gays to : 1) Call Congress about the military
ban, call tallies are kept, 202-225-3121, 2) Write Congress,
recount personal experiences, The Honorable _____ US
Senate (US Representative), Washington, D.C. 20510 (or
20515), 3) Go to Congress to lobby, 4) Donate \$25 or more
to NGLTF, any amount over \$35 is tax deductible, write: The
Task Force, 1734 Fourteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C.
20009-4309.

Michigan Initiative Revived

A right wing group, the Michigan Family Values Coalition, has
started a petition drive to put an anti-homosexual proposal
on the ballot. A coalition, called the Michigan Campaign for
Human Dignity, has been organized and is open to anyone
interested in fighting this initiative. The coalition's strategy will
be based on evaluations of the Oregon and Colorado efforts
last fall. To volunteer or receive more information, write or
call: LGPAN, P.O. Box 3775, Grand Rapids, MI 49501 or
(616)-458-3511.

Grand Rapids "ADOPT-A-ROAD"

The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of Grand Rapids
is responsible for cleaning up a one and a half mile stretch of
Ada Drive near Ada, MI. The county has put up two signs
declaring the Network is responsible for it and while the
signs have been vandalized repeatedly, the clean-up crews
have not had any problems while working.

Celia,

Happy 14th. May we be blessed with another 14.

Barb



Silence...

Why do we keep
to ourselves

Listen to all,
but share not
Is it fear?

It is so much easier
to keep quiet than
to speak how
we feel.

My heart wants to stay,
but realistically I am
slowly walking away.

If she cared so much
why did she walk so
far away?

Was she just afraid to stay
or was I just not enough?

3rd Annual

CELEBRATION OF HEALING

A DAY FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

Saturday, May 22, 1993

Saint Mary's College • Madeleva Hall

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Elkhart YWCA Women's Resource Center

Elkhart County Youth Services Bureau

Kingwood Hospital

Maple City Health Care Center

University of Notre Dame Counseling Center

and

Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Feminist Asylum in Canada



Canadian Employment and Immigration Minister, Bernard Valcourt, ranted a Saudi womyn political asylum as she feared persecution in Saudi Arabia because she is a feminist. Soheila Ainechi of Iran has also requested asylum in Canada. In 1987, she was arrested and tortured in an Iranian jail. Later, Soheila took a friend who wanted an abortion (illegal in Iran) to a doctor who performed abortions. The Revolutionary Guard raided the doctor's office and arrested Soheila's friend but Soheila was released and later fled the country when the Guard came for her again. To support Soheila and the Saudi wimmin, write: The Honorable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Employment and Immigration, 140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 14th Floor, Hull, Quebec, KIA 019 Canada. Telephone: 819-994-2482.

Murder in D.C.

A Washington, D.C. lesbian was shot and killed as she and her partner held hands while walking to their car from a lesbian/gay bar. The man accosted her saying, "What's wrong with you, girl?", demanding sex with her saying, "I want to fuck you". When she refused his polite invitation, he shot her in the face. The D.C. have refused to classify this murder as a hate crime or an anti-womyn crime.



Arrests Made in Bombing of Lesbian Bookstore

Police recently arrested five people, two adults and three teenage boys, in connection with the bombing of the Closet Bookstore in Lancaster, Penn.. That bombing, three additional bomb threats and pressure from a local fundamentalist, anti-pornography group forced the owner, Nancy Helen, to close in May, 1992. The adult male that was arrested told police he was offended by the materials he saw in the bookstore windows.

Author Valerie Taylor

Valerie Taylor, the novelist who wrote the Erica Fromm series and Prism, cannot walk, write or care for herself because she fractured a shoulder and has nerve damage in one leg. Medicare and basic donated health insurance cover a portion of her needs but she has to rely on her Social Security check for the rest. If interested in making a contribution, write: Valerie Taylor Fund, c/o Antigone Books, 600 N. 4th Avenue, Tucson, AR 85705.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

If you are glad the South Bend Tribune has continued to carry this comic strip for the month or so it has focused on the coming-out of one of the teenage characters, write a supportive letter to the editor or call the business office, 235-6161 and let them know. You need not leave your name and the office is keeping a count of supporters and critics of running the strip. The last we heard the count was about even.

The Elkhart Truth opted not to run the comic strip during this month and an expression of your views to them would also be helpful.



Colorado.

Churches Girlcott Colorado

On Feb. 2, 1993 four different Methodist organizations asked the general conference of the United Methodist Church to move its 1996 meeting from Denver. Also, the Association of Diocesan Liturgy and Music Commission of the Episcopal Church has decided not to hold its 1995 meeting in

Other Info:

The immigration laws denied US citizenship to foreign-born children of foreign father and US mothers until the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned it in March.

A consumer group, the Midwifery Task Force of Ontario, assists wimmin in finding a midwife. The number is: 1-800-387-9031.

Studies show that when wimmin are only a small minority in positions of power, they tend to conform to the practices of the dominant group.

WIMMIN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULES

Team: The Whistle Stop Cafe			Team: All Thumbs		
Date	Time	Field	Date	Time	Field
Apr 30	8:00pm	Memorial	Apr 30	7:00	Boland
May 7	7:00	Pottawatomie	May 7	7:00	Walker
May 14	7:00	Boehm	May 14	8:00	Pott
May 21	8:00	Walkerfield	May 21	8:00	Mem
May 28	8:00	O'Brien	May 28	7:00	Walker
Jun 4	7:00	Pottawatomie	Jun 4	8:00	Walker
Jun 11	7:00	Walkerfield	Jun 11	8:00	Mem



LESBIAN AND GAY AA GROUPS

Sundays	-Elkhart General Hospital Renaissance Unit 2nd Floor 7 p.m. (1st meeting of the month is an open meeting)
Mondays	-First Unitarian Church 101 E. Northshore South Bend 7 p.m.
Saturdays	-First Unitarian Church 101 E. Northshore South Bend 8 p.m.

Montreal Massacre Praised

Clive Cowland paid almost \$600 to place an ad in the Vancouver West End Times, praising the man who massacred 14 wimmin in Montreal three years ago on Dec. 6th. The West End Times did not mention any commemorative events regarding the Violence Against Women Awareness week—just the massacre ad. The Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) wrote to the publisher, demanding that all proceeds from the sale of the ad be donated to a feminist anti-violence group and that the Times publish articles written by feminists on the reality of violence against women. Ten women's organizations supported these demands and the VSW when it asked the advertisers in that edition to girlcott the Times until the publisher had met the demands. Women's organizations and lesbian groups agreed to girlcott the advertisers that did not pull their advertisements. A week later, the publisher sent almost \$600 to the Violence Against Women Awareness Week commission but since he had not complied with the second demand, too, the feminists continued the girlcott.



Denver Families

A Denver district judge ordered the Denver Career Service Board to compensate Mary Ross, a lesbian, for sick leave she took in 1990 and 1991 to care for her seriously injured partner. The judge ruled against the city because the denial of benefits was based on an "irrational" definition of immediate family.

Massachusetts

The Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth recommended to the governor the creation and enforcement of school policies protecting lesbian and gay students from violence, discrimination and harassment, designing curriculum to include lesbian and gay issues and creating school-based support groups for lesbian/gay and heterosexual students.

Rape Statistics From The Army

A Freedom of Information Act request found that wimmin in the US Army are 50% more likely to be raped than civilian wimmin. In documented rape cases from 1987 to 1991, the Army reported 484 rapes, of those cases, 479 were enlisted wimmin and 5 were female officers. The Army rape rate for 1990 was 129 rape cases per 100,000 wimmin. The civilian rate in 1990 was 81 rape cases per 100,000 wimmin. Critics point out that rape is more underreported in the military than in civilian life because the women fear, and rightly so, that the male-dominated command structure will not take the reports seriously and that the offenders will not be punished.



HATE CRIMES

The St. Joseph Human Rights Commission is keeping statistics on hate crimes toward lesbians and gays that occurred between 7/1/92 and 6/30/93. We will have more information on this in the June O.A. In the meantime, call Betsy Roessner of the Human Rights Commission at 234-9409.



Domestic Partnerships

Chicago: The City Council Finance Committee passed a proposal to give 3 days paid leave to city worker upon the death of a "sole domestic partner" (homosexual or hetero) if the two have been living together for at least 6 months. Mayor Daley supports the proposal and may support full equality in health benefits for lesbian and gay city workers after investigating the cost.

New York: The first large law firm of NY to grant health care benefits to lesbian and gay partners is Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy. The estimates the cost will be \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. Unwed heteros are not covered because they have the option to get legally married.



GOLDEN THREADS Celebration

GOLDEN THREADS is a worldwide social network of lesbians over 50 and wimmin who are interested in older wimmin. the Seventh Annual Celebration will be at Provincetown, Mass., on June 25-27th, 1993. Entertainment will be provided by Julie Woods. Other events include a banquet, dancing, sing-a-longs, rap sessions and feminist videos. Attendance will be limited to 250 wimmin. For more information, contact: Christine Burton, GOLDEN THREADS, P.O. Box 3177, Burlington, VT 05401-0031.

Civil Rights Laws Passed

Miami Beach and Cincinnati have approved civil rights ordinances that prohibit discrimination in employment and housing. Cincinnati's ordinance is being challenged by a fundamentalist referendum drive.

Anchorage: Municipal employees and people working for private municipal contractors are now protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation because of a civil rights ordinance passed by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly in January. Anti-homosexual people have started a petition to repeal the measure.



ANSWER TO APRIL TRIVIA QUESTION

Lesbian and gay reading material is available from the following: Pandora's Books, on Lovell near Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI (616) 388-5656; Dreams and Swords, 828 E. 64th St., Indianapolis, IN; 1-800-937-2706 and the Little Professor Bookstore, on Route 23 near Ironwood in South Bend.

Both Pandora's and Dreams and Swords are womyn-owned and operated and both will do mail orders.

Newsletter Gone

The newsletter, Lavendar Visions from Zionsville, In is no longer being published because no one offered to help the publishers when they suffered burn out.

LAWNS MOWED AND TRIMMED.
Call Judy at 272-7528.

Reasonable rates.

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

WRITE FOR BROCHURE & INFO ON CONCERT PROGRAM.



WWTMC P.O. BOX 22, WALHALLA, MICHIGAN 49458

AUGUST 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15, 1993

Ticket Purchases

The sliding scale for advance ticket purchases allows for womyn of different economic abilities to pay within a range. We leave this as your decision, and we ask womyn who can, to pay the higher rate to accommodate womyn who cannot.

	Advance by 7/17	At Gate	Earliest Admittance
6 Day: Mon/Tues-Sun	\$200-230	\$225	Mon 2-11pm Tues 7 am
5 Day: Wed-Sun	\$175-205	\$200	Tues 12 Midnight
4 Day: Thu-Sun	\$150-180	\$175	Wed 12 Midnight
3 Day: Fri-Sun	\$125-155	\$150	Thu 12 Midnight
2 Day: Sat-Sun	\$ 75-105	\$100	Fri 12 Midnight
1 Day: Sunday	\$ 35- 55	\$ 50	Sat 12 Midnight

Money orders, Visa, MasterCard, bank or traveler checks accepted. No personal checks.

The Festival has a limited number of ticket subsidies to extend to womyn who are of economic disadvantage. We ask that only womyn who truly are excluded from the above price range apply. All requests for applications must be postmarked by June 12th. No reductions will be made at the gate. Womyn over 65 or 16 & under who are on fixed income or no income are admitted free. Price includes all activities, concerts, dances, food, workshops, films, camping, outdoor showers and portable toilets. MWMF is a gathering of mothers and daughters for all womyn born womyn.

Important Dates and Deadlines

August 10 - 15	Festival Week
June 12 Postmark:	Completed Workshops for Program*
	Request Reduced Rate Application
	Program Advertising*
July 8 Postmark:	Ticket Refund Request
	Completed DART RV Permit Request
July 17 Postmark:	Advance Ticket Purchase
	Airport Shuttle Reservation*
July 26 Postmark:	Completed DART Registration*
	Completed Childcare Reservation*



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Two year-around cottages available for womyn on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are heated and fully furnished. The kitchens are well-equipped, and liners and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The livingrooms have a fireplace with wood provided. Gas grills outdoors for barbe-cuing. The beach is in front at the foot of the bluff. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops, galleries, restaurants, antique shops nearby.

Call Susan in Saugatuck at (616) 857-2586.



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MAY



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

						1 AA South Bend 8 p.m.
2	3 AA South Bend 7 p.m.	4 Support Group 7 p.m.	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 	13	14	15 Game Night 4 p.m.
16 OPEN ARMS Meeting 6 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21 Third Friday Out 7 p.m.	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

ALL TIMES ARE INDIANA TIME

The Y Needs U!

Do you have a knack for organizing events? Or a few hours to mail entry forms? How about making phone calls to schedule volunteers? Do you play tennis or run - are you a coach for a team sport? Is your real talent still hiding and waiting to be found?

How about sharing your talent and energy by helping with **run, jane, run**? Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the YWCA programs and services for women and children in the community.

Initial planning is currently underway for **run, jane, run '93** scheduled for August 27 - September 19. Committee members, as well as a couple of co-chairs, are needed to assist with these sports: aerobics, 3-on-3 basketball, golf, horse shows, in-line skating, racquetball, runs, softball, tennis, and volleyball.

If you always wondered what **run, jane, run** was all about, give the YWCA Development Department a call at 233-9491 for further details.



Wish List

The services of the YWCA are in constant need of supplies for their programs. If you or your group can help with a donation, it will go directly to the program you designate. Donations can be delivered to the front desk of the YWCA, and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Thank you for your generosity!

Chemical Dependency Services

Poloroid camera with lots of film and flash
toiletries
journal book
stationery and stamps
games and puzzles

videos and books
child's table and chairs
coloring books
slippers, socks and gloves

Domestic Violence Services

journal books
portable cribs
rollaway beds and mattresses
sheets and blankets
towels and washcloths

Self-Sufficiency Services

family table games
family and children's books and magazines
IBM compatible 40mg hard drive computer and accessories
coloring books and crayons
art supplies
kitchen utensils
small appliances

OTHER COMING EVENTS

- JUNE 11-24, Claire of the Moon, Music Box, Chicago.
JUNE 12, noon - 8 p.m. Indianapolis PRIDE CELEBRATION at University Park, downtown. Justice, Inc. 1-800-886-GAYS.
JUNE 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. PRIDE ACTION DAY in South Bend.

PRIDE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING. Call 287-1302 for time, date and directions.
FOURTH SUNDAY - P-FLAG, 2-4 p.m., Christ The King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Rd., South Bend.